



# Murray Football Netball League Inc

A0016661M  
ABN 72545452561

## Netball By Laws



## By Laws Updated March 2022

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## **1 Preliminary**

All previous by laws and local playing rules are hereby repealed absolutely. All by laws shall apply equally to all players except where rules of the league state otherwise, in which case the provisions in the rules override the by laws.

## **2 Common Rule**

All club secretaries shall keep a copy of by laws at all games for quick reference, as well as single game voucher, injury record book, and injury insurance forms/memos.

## **3 Meetings**

- 1 The Murray Netball League will meet in the months of April, June and August each year with the dates to be advised to Clubs by the Netball Administrator. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the second Monday in November with the General meeting being held following the Annual General Meeting. Meetings to commence at 7.00pm. The venue for all meetings will be held at a venue central to the majority of Clubs. Executive to meet prior to any of these meetings if required. All agenda items to be in writing to the Administrator two (2) weeks prior to meeting. No discussion on items not in writing prior to the meeting. If there are no agenda items for these meetings one week prior to the meeting date then the meeting will be abandoned.
- 2 The name, address and phone number of Club Executives must be lodged with the League Secretary before the end of February.
- 3 Each club is to be represented by two (2) delegates at all League meetings, and failure to do so will see a loss of two (2) premiership points per team for the club concerned. If only one (1) delegate is in attendance a loss of one (1) point will be imposed on all teams for the club concerned.
- 4 A copy of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and all general Meetings shall be forwarded to all clubs as soon as possible after the meeting.

## **4 Affiliation**

Each club shall pay an annual affiliation fee of \$1000 + GST = \$1100. This fee is to be reassessed yearly, and increased if required, for the forthcoming season at the AGM of the League. An invoice for the said fees will be forwarded to each club by the General Manager of the MFL. Affiliation fees are due by the 31st March of the current season.

## **5 Registrations**

- 1 No player, coach or umpire will be permitted to participate in the Murray Netball League's activities in any capacity without a current Netball Victoria membership. All Murray Netball League Board members are required to be current members of Netball Victoria.

Penalty - loss of 2 premiership points to the offending team, each week that unregistered player/s take the court. For those grades that do not play for points a \$100 fine will be imposed.

2 All player registrations are to be completed prior to players taking the court either through Netball Connect or by using a Single Game Voucher.

3 A player wanting to play on a Single Game Voucher must register online through Netball Connect using the same process as a normal registration. This MUST be completed prior to the player taking the court.

Penalty for not completing prior to the game will be the same as playing an ineligible player – refer By Laws 22.4 and 22.5 (i)

## **6 Coaches**

All coaches of A, B & 17 & Under grades MUST have at least the minimum “Foundation” accreditation before the commencement of the season. Clubs must provide proof of accreditation to the League Administrator prior to the commencement of the season. If no proof provided the coach will be unable to coach.

## **7 Umpires**

1 Umpires for A & B grade matches must be confident and know their International Netball Federation rules to a high degree. All Umpires for A & B grade must be badged.

2 Out of League umpires will be sourced for the A & B Grade Grand Finals but the use of badged umpires within our own league is acceptable should we be unable to find available umpires.

3 No umpire shall umpire more than two (2) games on any one day during the home & away or final series. Penalty \$100.00

4 Umpires waiting to play in the next game, must be given adequate time to complete score sheets and vote cards and prepare to play.

5 All MNL umpires are to wear a white polo shirt (preferably “Worksafe” polo shirt) and appropriate footwear. Umpires officiating on all senior grades and 17 & Under shall wear white skirt/shorts. Umpires of all other junior grades (15 & Under, 13 & Under and 11 & Under) must wear white skirt/shorts or black pants/shorts. No Club uniforms are to be showing whilst umpiring. Failure to comply will result in a warning letter being issued to the Club following the first breach. A fine of \$50 will be imposed on the second and all subsequent breaches.

6 Both umpires are required to complete the League Best & Fairest votes on the official league vote cards at the completion of the match. Umpires are required to sign the front of the card, print their name on the front of the envelope and sign across the seal of the envelope.

- 7 All clubs must, at the commencement of the season, advise the MNL Secretary of all their umpires names and contact details and that of their Umpire Co-Ordinator.
- 8 The MNL will conduct a Rules Discussion night/day BEFORE the commencement of the playing season and the umpire co-ordinator from every club and at least one other representative MUST attend. Penalty for non-attendance \$50.00.
- 9 All Club umpires are required to have passed the Netball Victoria Online Theory Exam and completed the online Level 1 Umpiring Course within two (2) weeks of umpiring their first game for their Club. Clubs are required to have a copy of both certificates on hand and made available to the League when requested.
- 10 All umpires shall be registered with Netball Victoria. Clubs using unregistered umpires will incur a \$50 fine.
- 11 Clubs are encouraged to follow the MNL Coloured Shirt Program when teaching new umpires – see MNL website to view/download details
- 12 All MNL Umpire Mentors must have attended an Umpires Mentors Workshop within the last two years. Proof of attendance must be provided to the League Administrator. Clubs must provide a list of Mentors to the League Administrator at the start of each season, with supporting evidence of their qualifications.
- 13 Learner umpires are NOT permitted to umpire 11 & Under. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a \$100 fine each time the By Law is breached.
- 14 ***Testing Umpires***
- i All Umpire Testers must have attended an Umpire Testers Workshop before proceeding to test umpires.
  - ii The MNL Umpire Co-Ordinator or League Administrator must be informed before any umpires are tested (in accordance with Netball Australia regulations).
  - iii All testers must have a current Netball Victoria membership and accreditation.
  - iv The MNL must check all testers details to ensure their accreditation and memberships are current.
  - v Umpires to be tested must have completed the Foundation Umpire Online Course and Rules of Netball Theory Exam prior to being tested. Evidence of this must be sighted.

## **8 Primary Carers**

All Primary Carers must wear either the yellow armband OR a Yellow vest. Failure to do so will result in an official warning in the first instance. Any Club that re-offends will receive a \$100 fine.

It is recommended that all Primary Carers have a current first aid certificate.

## **9 Playing Times**

- 1 Times for home and away games are as follows:-
  - 9.45am 11 & Under and 15 & Under
  - 10.45am 13 & Under and 17 & Under
  - 12.00pm B Grade and C Reserve
  - 1.30pm A Grade and C Grade
- 2 If a team has a problem with the playing times (ie moving the game to a day other than Saturday), the Club Secretary must contact the opposing team by the Wednesday prior to the game. The game can be changed if the opposing team agree and the League must be notified of the change prior to the game being played.

## **10 Grades / Age Requirements**

- 1 The Murray Netball League shall consist of eight (8) grades:-
  - A Grade (open age female)
  - B Grade (open age female)
  - C Grade (open age female)
  - C Reserve (open age female)
  - 17 years & Under Female
  - 15 years & Under Female
  - 13 years & Under (males < 13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate) Refer By Law 33.6(a)
  - 11 years & Under Mixed (females and males no restrictions refer By Law 33.7(a))
- 2 Participant age for junior grades are determined as at 31st December of that year.
- 3 Players aged 11 will participate in 11 & Under – no ladders, finals or best & fairest votes but will be able to score.
- 4 If only one Senior team is entered it must be an “A” grade team. Any additional senior teams must follow through the grades accordingly.
- 5 Any variance to that order (By-law 10.4) because of exceptional circumstances must be applied for in writing to the Board no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the season.
- 6 The grading process shall consider the following guidelines:-
  - i If more than five (5) players in the team have played at a higher level than the grade requested in the last two (2) years, the request will be denied.
  - ii If there is some question as to a player from another competition, then discussions shall be made with the Club delegate from that players previous Club.
  - iii A list of teams in that grade level will be reviewed and comparisons made to the list submitted by the team requesting grading.
  - iv The decision of the League Board will be sent in writing to the Club in question stating the reasons for the decision

The decision of the League Board will be a 2/3 majority. The decision shall be final.

- 7 Minimum age requirements for junior grades are as follows:-
  - 11 & Under – 9 years of age minimum
  - 13 & Under – 11 years of age minimum
  - 15 & Under – 12 years of age minimum
  - 17 & Under – 14 years of age minimum

## **11 Representative Team Selection**

The Representative Team Selection will be in accordance with the Murray Netball League Representative Selection Policy. This document can be viewed/downloaded from the Murray Netball League website - [www.murraynl.vic.netball.com.au/resources/rep side policy](http://www.murraynl.vic.netball.com.au/resources/rep%20side%20policy).

## **12 Conduct of Matches**

- 1 The playing rules shall be those of the International Netball Federation unless otherwise stated in these by-laws.
- 2 All Senior grades (A, B, C & Cres) and 17 & Under will play 15 minute quarters with a 3 minute break at quarter and three quarter time and a five minute break at half time. Junior Grades 13 years & Under and 15 years & Under shall play 12 minute quarters with two (2) minute breaks at quarter and three quarter time and a three (3) minute break at half time. 11 years & Under will play 10 minute quarters.
- 3 A standard netball 27-28 inches in circumference and 14-16 ounces in weight with "Worksafe" written on it is to be used in all matches.
- 4 In the event of a drawn match during the season both teams will be awarded two (2) premiership points each, this however excludes the final series. Refer to By Law 24.7
- 5 In grades where not all Clubs have entered a team, a ratio will be applied to the ladder.

## **13 Forfeit**

- 1 In the event of a forfeit, the team forfeiting shall notify the opposing team by Friday night conceding four (4) premiership points. Failure to do so will incur a fifty dollar (\$50) fine to the club. Any team being forfeited too, shall receive a score of ten to nil and 4 points and percentage calculated on same.
- 2 The non-offending team shall complete the score sheet nominating only 10 (ten) players be awarded the game. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- 3 Any team forfeiting in the final three rounds of home & away matches, will incur a fifty (\$50) fine for the club, plus the loss of four premiership points for all teams from the club participating in the league competition.

- 4 Teams are allowed a five (5) minute grace period, play can commence with five players after that time the game is awarded to the non offending team. The opposing team will be awarded a goal per minute.

#### **14 Abandoning Games**

If play is abandoned due to extreme weather conditions prior to commencement of the game points will be awarded as if the game was a draw ie two (2) points per team.

If play is abandoned before half time a draw will be awarded with a score of twenty (20) goals each. Each team will be permitted to lodge a score sheet with up to 12 players names entered.

If play is abandoned after half time the score will stand.

#### **15 Adding & Withdrawal of teams**

Any team may be added or withdrawn up to and including the third round. All scores, points and best and fairest votes from these matches shall be discarded and the match or matches treated as byes.

Teams that have played a Club in the rounds prior to it being entered will have a forfeit recorded in their favour with a score of 10 to 0 recorded.

Teams that have played a Club in the rounds prior to it being withdrawn will have the results altered to show a Bye.

#### **16 Mercy Rule**

The Maximum winning margin rule is to be implemented immediately a team reaches a 30 goal margin.

This applies to both the 11 & Under and 13 & Under grades.

The scores at this point will be submitted to the league as the FINAL SCORE, no further scores will be added to the official score sheet

Best & Fairest votes will be discussed between umpires as soon as the Mercy Rule is implemented or at the next break

Coaches to even out teams by mutual agreement for the remainder of the game if considered appropriate.

It is not mandatory for an exchange of players. If coaches are happy to continue to play the game with their own squads that is acceptable. The maximum winning margin still applies.

Once the Mercy is rule is implemented it must be noted on the score sheet that the mercy rule has been enforced.



## 17 Uniforms

- 1 Each Club must register its uniform with the League. Clubs registered uniforms MUST include options for all genders.
- 2 Any Clubs intending to change their registered uniforms must gain approval from the Murray Netball League prior to the purchase of the new uniforms. The new uniform CANNOT be worn until approval has been given by the League
- 3 All teams must have the "Worksafe" patch displayed on both the front and back of their bibs.
- 4 Slacks, tracksuit pant, short (other than bike shorts) or jumpers are not permitted except on the grounds of a medical condition upon receipt of a doctor's certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner, or religious and cultural reasons upon application to the Murray Netball League Board in writing. If proper uniforms are not worn by the third game, a fine of \$50 will be imposed to the offending team will be imposed. The penalty will continue until proper uniforms are worn. It is up to the captains and coaches to enforce this. If the League Board can be shown a reasonable excuse as to why correct uniforms are not being worn, the fine will be lifted.
- 5 Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform.
- 6 In the event team colours clash, the away team must wear alternate coloured bibs (alternate meaning a colour that is NOT part of their normal uniform).

## 18 Score sheets, Scorers and timekeepers

- 1
  - i Each club shall use the score sheet downloaded from Netball Connect as directed by the League, and provide their own time clocks, scorer and the home team shall provide the timekeeper. These officials are to be seated together for the duration of the match. One timer being used for match time and the second timer set for injury time of 30 seconds.
  - ii The home club shall provide a competent scorer, a timekeeper and time clocks, whilst the away club will provide a scorer. **Both the scorer and timekeeper must be at least 16 years of age.** These officials must be seated together for the duration of the match and must be ready to commence their duties at the scheduled game time. The scorer who starts scoring the game shall score for the duration of the game. Only under extreme circumstances can a scorer be changed during the game.
  - iii Games cannot commence without all of these officials present. If officials are not present for the start of the game then By-law 13.4 will apply.
  - iv Any Club not supplying the proper officials to commence the game will receive a warning letter in the first instance. Any further breaches will result in the offending Club being fined \$100.00

- 2 i The scorers should ensure that all centre passes and goals are recorded correctly. All injuries, cautions, warnings and suspensions should be recorded on the sheet provided by the away team's scorer. Both scorers should ensure that they check the score sheets at the end of each quarter, any discrepancy in the score sheets at the end of any quarter should be resolved prior to the resumption of the match.
- ii If there is a discrepancy with the scores or score sheet at the end of the game, then the score sheet MUST NOT be signed. Signing the score sheet means you agree the scores and the information on (the score sheet) is correct.
- 3 Scorers are required to record the goals scored by using strokes through the numbers listed on the score sheet. A circle must be placed around the number at the end of each quarter.
- 4 Score sheets must be checked by both teams, home teams are to post in an express post envelope both the vote cards and score sheets by first mail on the Monday following the game to reach the League Administrator by Wednesday. Failure to do so will result in the loss of 2 premiership points for all teams of the club concerned. Results are to be entered online immediately following each game and no later than 4.30pm.
- 5 It shall be the scorers, coaches and team managers responsibility to see that all details are entered before commencement of the game, to check scores at intervals and to ensure umpires and captains signatures are entered at the completion of the games.
- 6 When a Club fails to complete the score sheet properly they will be sent two (2) warning letters, the third time the Club fails to correctly complete the score sheet the team whose score sheet wasn't completed will lose 2 premiership points.
- 7 A player's name can be added to the score sheet after the commencement of play provided it is done BEFORE the player takes the court.
- 8 i A player who takes the court without their name first being on the score sheet must leave the court and cannot be replaced. The player concerned can re-take the court following the next goal provided the player's name has been added to the score sheet. This breach must be recorded on the score sheet.

Penalty for first offence will be a warning letter sent to both clubs. If it occurs on a second occasion within the same club, then that Club shall receive a \$100 fine each time they re-offend.
- ii If a player takes the court without their being on the score sheet prior to the player taking the court and it is not discovered until after the completion of the game, both Clubs concerned will receive an official warning in the first instance and should either Club re-offend a fine of \$100 will be imposed.
- 10 When an injury occurs neither the injured player nor the player replacing the injured player will be recorded as having played a full quarter for qualifying purposes.
- 11 Timekeepers duties are:-

- i Commence timing when the game is started by the umpires whistle;
- ii When the playing time specified for a quarter/half has elapsed notify the umpire by sounding the air horn/electronic horn. **The umpires whistle shall end play;**
- iii Notify the Umpires when there are thirty (30) seconds and ten (10) seconds remaining before start of a quarter/half;
- iv Hold time when instructed by the Umpire who shall blow the whistle to stop play. To restart play the Umpire shall signal to the Timekeepers and blow the whistle for play to be resumed;
- v Notify the umpires when 10 seconds remain prior to the end of a stoppage for injury/illness or blood.

## 19 **Best & Fairest Votes**

- 1 Will be voted on at the end of each match by the umpires privately. Umpires confide in voting on a 3-2-1 basis. Full Christian, Surname and Club must be used. Home teams to place vote cards in envelopes supplied and votes are then to be sent to the League Administrator first mail on Monday. No votes will be accepted if not on official vote cards and enclosed in official voting envelopes. Votes must be signed by two officiating umpires of the game across the seal of the envelope and print their names on the front of the envelope. Umpires are also required to sign the front of the vote card.
- 2 A ratio (the same format used for calculating ladder position) will be used to determine the winner of any grades best and fairest that does not have all twelve clubs competing.
- 3 All votes will be valid, however, failure to fill out envelope correctly and sign will incur the offending club \$50 fine.
- 4 Any players suspended or fined by the Tribunal for any offence/s as per the rule of these by-laws will be ineligible for the Best & Fairest Award for that season. Any reference to voting on the Best & Fairest Award in the media shall exclude the names and votes of any offending players.
- 5 Sponsorship for the "MNL Best & Fairest Award" will be sought on an annual basis by Murray Football League.
- 6 Award amounts or to be disbursed as follows:

|           |       |                   |      |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|------|
| A Grade   | \$250 | A Grade runner up | \$50 |
| B Grade   | \$100 | C Grade           | \$50 |
| C Reserve | \$ 50 |                   |      |
- 7 Should a tie in votes counted occur, those on the same votes will be awarded equal prize money at the expense of the League.

## 20 **Transfer and clearances**

All requests for a clearance must be lodged online through Netball Connect

## **21 Player Conduct**

- 1 Any player found guilty of disputing an umpires' decision on the court and misconduct shall be liable to be disqualified from taking part in any match under the control of the League, for such a time as the League Board may decide.
- 2 A player who is reported must go before the Tribunal. Refer to Netball Victoria's Competition Regulation

## **22 Players eligibility**

- 1 A player either junior or senior who plays a combined total of 28 quarters in any higher grade and including finals, shall not be eligible to play for any team in a lower grade.  
  
The exception being –
  - i A 17 & Under player can play an unlimited number of quarters in A Grade and still be able to return to 17 & Under.
  - ii Any junior player can play an unlimited number of quarters in C Reserve and still be able to return to their respective age group/grade.
- 2 A player can play a maximum of two (2) grades per day
- 3 If a team plays an ineligible player, the team concerned is considered to have forfeited the game in which the said player has participated. If the offending team loses the game they will also lose 2 premiership points. The non-offending team wins the match the score will stand. That player is also ineligible for Best & Fairest votes for those games.
- 4 A player becomes ineligible when:
  - i They are not registered with Netball Victoria that current year
  - ii When a player has played twenty eight (28) quarters in a higher grade and then plays in a lower grade. See By Law 22.4 above for penalty.
  - iii When a player has played less than twenty (20) quarters for the Club or in the case of C Grade and C Reserve twenty (20) quarters in that grade and plays in a final.

## **23 Qualification for final series**

- 1 To be eligible to play in finals a player must have played a minimum of 20 quarters for the Club.  
The following exceptions apply –
  - i A 17 & Under player playing in A grade must play a minimum of 36 quarters in the 17 & Under grade to be able to play finals in that grade
  - ii To play in C Grade in finals a player must have played a minimum of 20 quarter in that grade
  - iii To play in C Reserve in finals a player must have played a minimum of 20 quarter in that grade

- iv A player who has played a minimum of 28 quarters in C Reserve is eligible to play finals in C Grade without having played in that grade
- 2 A player can play up grades in finals, with a maximum of 2 games per day.
- 3 For grades that do not have all Clubs playing, a ratio will be applied for qualifying purposes.
- 4 To qualify for finals a player must play a full quarter for that quarter to be recorded for qualifying purposes.

## **24 Finals**

- 1 These will be played at the conclusion of the rounds in each Grade, except 11 & Under.
- 2 The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- 3 Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match and will lose 2 premiership points for the coming season in that grade.
- 4 Matches shall be conducted for finals as for rounds. The starting time of finals matches may alter slightly. Refer to By Law 24.8
- 5 On completion of home and away matches, the final series are played as follows:
 

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Elimination Finals – Saturday | 3 v 6   |
| Elimination Finals – Sunday   | 4 v 5   |
| 2nd Semi Finals - Saturday    | 1 v 2   |
| 1st Semi Finals – Sunday      | Winners of Elimination Finals   |
| Preliminary finals            | Winner 1 <sup>st</sup> Semi Final and Loser of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi Final |
| Grand finals                  | Winner of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi Final and Winner of Preliminary Final      |
- 6 "Worksafe" match balls will be used for all finals games. New balls are to be purchased for the Grandfinal.
- 7 Drawn matches in finals:
 

The Murray Netball League shall adopt the INF Rule 4.2 (i), (ii), (iii) & (iv).

  - i There shall be a four (4) minutes interval at the end of full time.
  - ii Extra time shall consist of two halves of equal length, not exceeding seven (7) minutes or five (5) minutes for junior grades each, with a half-time interval of one (1) minute.
  - iii The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
  - iv In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by two (2) goals.

|   |                    |            |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| 8 | Times for Finals:  |            |
|   | Court 1            | Court 2    |
|   | 9.30am 17 & Under  | 13 & Under |
|   | 10.45am 15 & Under | C Grade    |
|   | 12.00pm B Grade    | C Reserve  |
|   | 1.30pm A Grade     |            |

9 All teams will be presented with winning shields after their respective games at a central presentation area. All winning clubs to engrave trophies prior to handing them back to the League Administrator.

10 All Finals - participating teams are to supply a scorer and timekeeper for each game they have teams playing in. Adult scorers to be used in all final series games.

11 A fine of \$100 per club will apply to any team that doesn't provide 2 people for each of their rostered games. Two people per team are adequate for the job of scoring and timekeeping in the finals.

**25 Host clubs – Finals**

Host clubs are to provide a table and supply chairs for all official timekeepers and scorers for each court and they are also to provide afternoon tea and drinking water for the umpires. Umpires to be informed of where it is being served on the day. Provide covered team benches for players and officials.

**26 Awards**

1 i An award known as the Jodie Sefton Player of the Final Medal shall be presented each year to the best player in the A Grade grand final as voted by the umpire.

ii All other grades player of the final as chosen by the umpires will be known as the Presidents Medal.

2 i Best Defence Team Award - this perpetual award has been established for junior grades, it is awarded to the team with the least number of goals scored against them for the season.

ii Best Goal Scoring Team Award - also applicable to all junior grades on a perpetual basis and awarded to the team with the most number of goals scored throughout the season.

Both awards are derived from weekly results tabled by the League Administrator and established at the conclusion of the home and away season.

3 The Wendy Brooks Rookie of the Year is open to all players 18 Years and under as at the 31st December playing their first year in A Grade. Clubs to nominate all their players who fit this criteria and the League Administrator will select the winner based on the highest league best and fairest votes received. Winner to receive trophy and \$100

- 4 An award known as the Most Valuable Player will be awarded each year to the best player(s) in A Grade as voted by the Coaches.

Voting for this award shall be made by the opposing A Grade coach who shall, at the conclusion of the match, select the best player from the opposing team and send that player's name by text message to the League Administrator immediately.

A running tally shall be displayed on the MNL website up until Round 10 where it will then become hidden until the end of the season.

The player(s) receiving the most votes will be awarded the Most Valuable Player at the end of the season and will receive a trophy together with a monetary award valued at \$200.

## **27 Trophies**

- 1 The League Administrator to purchase medals for all qualified players for premiers and runners up in junior grades only.
- 2 Coach of the premiership team in each grade will be awarded a coaches medal.
- 3 Each premiership team is to be presented with the ball used in that final.
- 4 Winners of the MNL Best & Fairest Awards will be presented with a medallion of equal size for all grades. Should a tie occur an additional medallion will be purchased by the League and equal cash award be provided (seniors grades only). Runners up medallions will be awarded in each grade.
- 5 At the conclusion of the final series, all scores must be recorded in the minute book together with the MNL best and fairest award winners.

## **28 Body Piercings**

All body piercings must be removed - Refer to IFN Rules of Netball 5.1.1 Players (iv)

## **29 Comments in Media**

Any club member, player or official found to have made inappropriate comments in the media in relation to any Murray Netball League umpire or official shall have action taken against them. The MNL Board shall decide upon the appropriateness of the alleged comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions. If the comments are found to be inappropriate, a fine as determined by the MNL Board will be levied against the offending party's club.

## **30 Risk Management**

- 1 *Injury Reporting*
  - i All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

- ii All players in a Murray Netball League Inc representative team are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured players or player's guardian (player under 18) on the injury Reporting Sheets provided
  
- 2 *Pre Match Checklist*
  - i A pre-match checklist will be completed prior to all Murray Netball League matches.
  - ii Any hazards identified will be.
    - a Documented
    - b Rectified if possible
    - c Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair is required
  
- 3 *Pregnancy*

As per Netball Australia Pregnancy in Netball Policy.  
<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/SD-Pregnancy-Policy.pdf>
  
- 4 *First Aid*
  - i All Clubs will provide a First Aid Kit.
  - ii The first aid kit will be accessible to all appropriate personnel (umpires, coaches etc)
  
- 5 *Emergency procedures*

Emergency phone numbers – ambulance, Doctor, and Police are to be stored in the first aid kit.
  
- 6 *Weather*
  - i In the case of extreme weather conditions the Murray Netball League shall refer to the Sports Medicine Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines which can be downloaded at:-  
<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/HOT-WEATHER-GUIDELINES-2.pdf>
  - ii If because of inclement weather a game which has begun and is abandoned before half time, the teams shall share two (2) points each with a score of 5 goals each. If the match is cancelled at half time or later, the current score stands.
  
- 7 *Blood Policy & Infectious Diseases*

A bucket of water must be kept on the sidelines at all times to wash down the court if blood has contaminated the court.
  
- 8 *Pre-participation Screening. Medical Indemnity*

The League does not accept responsibility by players, umpires or officials. Members take part at their own risk, despite all care being taken by the League
  
- 9 *SmokeFree*

The Murray Netball League will adopt a Smoke Free Policy. Refer to the Netball Australia Smoke Free Guidelines -  
<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/netball-wp-assets/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/03/09143949/Smokefree-Guidelines.pdf>



- 10 *Alcohol in Sporting Clubs*  
The Murray Netball League will adopt the Netball Australia Alcohol Guidelines refer to <http://netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Alcohol-Guidelines.pdf>
- 11 *Sun Protection*  
The Murray Netball League will adopt a SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council of Victoria refer to:-  
<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/sporting-groups>
- 12 *Codes of Behaviour*  
The Murray Netball League will adopt Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation.
- 13 *Drug Policy*  
The MNL prohibits the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of netball and the spirit of the game.  
Penalty - the offending player will be required to attend a hearing to decide on the appropriate penalty.
- 14 *Concussion*  
The Murray Netball League will adopt the Netball Australia Concussion Policy.

### **31 Dispute Resolution**

The Executive will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fails to adhere to this bylaw.

Any member of a team or Club which does not agree with a penalty or action of the Executive made under this bylaw, may advise the Executive within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made.

The Executive may then:-

- 1 discuss the issue with the relevant team or Club and make a decision regarding the matter. The Executive shall inform the party/ies involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or
- 2 have an informal meeting with the relevant party/ies in order to discuss and resolve the dispute

The Executive's decision is final.

### **32 Netball Victoria Policies, Regulations & Procedures**

The Murray Netball League also adopts the following policies, regulations and procedures:

- a Netball Victoria Competition Regulation  
<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/NV-Competition-Complaints-Handling-Regulations-Effective-1-January-2018.pdf>
- b Netball Australia Member Protection Policy  
[https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Member-Protection-Policy-and-Attachments\\_2017-9ca6-1.pdf](https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Member-Protection-Policy-and-Attachments_2017-9ca6-1.pdf)

c Constitution

The Complaints Officer is responsible for determining the appropriate procedure for any dispute.

### 33 Inclusive Environments

1 The Murray Netball League is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.

2 The Murray Netball League will endeavour to provide opportunities for males to participate in mixed and male competitions.

3 The Murray Netball League may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.

4 The Murray Netball League supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the Association will seek advice on the application of the applicable Victorian discrimination laws for the particular circumstances.

5 All competitions will be clearly labelled in regard to age group and gender. This includes additional references to all genders that are permitted to play. All competition labelling will be clear and transparent.

6 The Murray Netball League observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation:

- (a) Males who are 13 years (and older) are not permitted to participate in female competition. This means that males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and
- 7 (b) males that turn 13 during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.

The Murray Netball League observes the Netball Victorian Gender Regulation in regard to mixed competition:

- (a) Mixed competition for the 11&U and 13&U age groups will have NO restrictions applied on the basis of gender.
- (b) Mixed competition for the 15&U and above age groups will observe the following rules:
  - (i) The minimum number of males in a team is ZERO, and
  - (ii) A mixed team must only have a maximum of 3 males on court at any one time, and
  - (iii) A mixed team must only have up to one male in each third on court. For the avoidance of doubt this means:

A. One male is permitted in the defence third occupying the position of Goal Defence or Goal Keeper, and

B. One male is permitted in the mid third occupying the position of Centre, Wing Attack or Wing Defence, and

- C. One male is permitted in the goal third occupying the position of Goal Attack or Goal Shooter.

**34 Amending By Laws**

The MNL Board only have the authority to add, delete or alter any By Laws by recommendation to Clubs and then through vote process either at a meeting or via email.

Any recommendations by Clubs to change By Laws during a season must be received in writing by the League Administrator. Recommendations to be dealt with by the Netball Board and if required the Netball Board will make recommendations to the Clubs to add, alter or delete a By Law.

**35 Indemnity**

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the MNL and its respective officers and members are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.

**36 Special Circumstance Clause**

Where this bylaw is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Murray Netball League Inc is maintained at all times.

The Committee may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this bylaw relating to the Murray Netball League Inc.

**37 Life Membership**

The Murray Netball League may appoint Life Membership(s) provided such person(s) proposed for such appointment has/have served at least ten years or dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort to netball within the League.

Life Members shall receive a Life Membership Badge. Life Members shall be elected by two thirds (2/3) majority of the League.

**38 Hall of Fame**

- 1 Clubs wishing to nominate a player into the Murray Netball League Hall of Fame must first do so in writing detailing their playing/coaching/ umpiring history.
- 2 The committee shall consider a candidate's individual record, ability, integrity, sportsmanship and character.
- 3 The number of games played, coached or umpired or the years of service provided shall only be a consideration and shall not be determinative in assessing a candidate's eligibility.

- 4 A player, coach, umpire, administrator, office bearer or media representative involved with the Murray Netball League may be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame. Candidates shall be adjudged on the basis of their overall contribution to the Murray Netball League as opposed to one specific aspect.
- 5 A member of the committee may be a candidate but shall not vote for her induction into the Hall of Fame.
- 6 There shall be no special order of precedence given to Hall of Fame inductees.
- 7 There shall be a maximum of five inductees to the Hall of Fame, there is no minimum requirement.
- 8 People who are inducted into the Hall of Fame will receive a badge similar to that of the Life Members.